

REMARKS

Claims 7 and 12 to 19 are in the case.

With this amendment, Applicant has revised the Claims in view of the objections set forth in the Office Action of September 15, 2006.

Claim 7 has been indicated to be allowable and has not been amended.

Claim 12 is directed to the embodiment wherein there is utilized only a single ring and which has the plurality of medium retaining members extending transversely of the ring with a base of each medium retaining member being secured thereto. It is respectfully submitted that the recited arrangement is not shown in the prior art.

The primary reference of Markovets as applied to original Claim 1 has been cited by the Examiner as showing a single ring and the Examiner refers to reference numeral 3 of Figure 3. In this regard, Figure 3 does not appear to show any such arrangement and reference numeral 3 is not present therein. Figure 3 is a sectional view through one of the plant containers. Furthermore, as may be seen in the Figure 2 sectional view of the apparatus, there are a plurality of rings 3 which are secured together into units.

Claim 12 also calls for the medium retaining members to have a base thereof secured to the rings. This permits the plants to grow inwardly towards the light source. As will be appreciated, this permits the growth of stronger and taller plants than would be permitted by the arrangement shown in Markovets. Inherently, the plant height is limited to the distance between the adjacent trays.

The arrangement of the present invention permits what is often referred to as orbitotropism which has shown that plant stocks are thicker and healthier when rotated such that the plant passes through 360° including a phase where it is upside down.

The secondary reference of Knappe does not overcome the deficiencies of the primary reference. In this reference, the arms rotate about a vertical axis and would be subject to the same deficiencies insofar as permitting a greater plant growth. Furthermore, this reference does not teach a base of a medium retaining member which is secured to a rotating ring.

The dependent Claims are also believed to add features which are not shown in the prior art. Thus, Claim 13 defines the light source as being located along the axis of rotation of the ring. Neither of the aforementioned references discloses such an arrangement.

Claim 17 defines a rotary growing apparatus wherein there are provided a plurality of medium retaining members having a base secured to the rotating ring and with liquid injection means for injecting a liquid interiorly of the medium retaining member through the back thereof.

The primary reference of Markovets discloses an arrangement wherein the liquid is located in the bottom of the apparatus. Such an arrangement will saturate any medium in the medium retaining member and would lead to substantial problems for plant growth. Thus, it is well known that the pH can change and such a change can be extremely detrimental to plant growth. Furthermore, the spread of disease is facilitated with such an arrangement. It becomes impossible to optimize the conditions and to adjust the amount of liquid depending upon the type of plant and/or stage of growth of the plant with the prior art arrangements.

The secondary reference of Knappe does not add anything to the primary reference in this regard since the plants are watered from above.

Again, the dependent Claims define features which are not shown in the art.

It is now believed this application is in order for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully,



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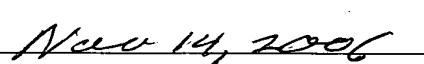
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